

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DPW-01 IO-14 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /147 W

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R 191040Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6679

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMCNSUL UDORN

CINCPAC

CDR USSAG NKP

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 7870

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LA

SUBJECT: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF LAO PROTOCOL

1. SECSTATE FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS SOUKAN VILAYSAN, IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE RLG DELEGATION TO JCIA, PROVIDED EMBOFFS WITH FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTING LAO PROTOCOL THIS MORNING:

A. PRIME MINISTER HAS APPROVED NEW LPF REQUEST FOR "THIRD CONTINGENT" OF 200 PERSONNEL AND 335 TONS OF CARGO TO BE BROUGHT TO VIENTIANE AND LUANG PRABANG BETWEEN 19-30 NOVEMBER. SOUKAN SAID THAT SOUVANNA OVERRULED CONSERVATIVE GENERALS' OBJECTIONS THAT NEW CONTINGENT WOULD EXCEED, BY 54 INDIVIDUALS, NUMBER OF LPF PERSONNEL AUTHORIZED BY PROTOCOL IN BOTH CITIES. PRIME MINISTER STATED THAT CLOSE COUNT SHOULD BE KEPT OF LPF MILITARY BUT NO RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON INFLUX OF CIVILIANS.

B. AGREEMENT WAS REACHED WITHIN RLG DELEGATION THAT PERSONNEL STRENGTH OF PROTECTIVE MILITARY BATTALION WOULD BE 600. SOUKAN EXPECTS LPF TO AGREE TO THIS FIGURE.

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C. LPF HAS ACCEPTED PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE IN

DOWNTOWN VIENTIANE AS CONFERENCE HALL FOR JCIA. THIS AFTERNOON, SOUKAN AND LPF DELEGATION CHIEF SOTH PHETRASY WILL WRAP UP FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR FIRST "SOLEMN MEETING" OF JCIA NEXT WEEK. LPF WANTS ICC COMMISSIONERS, DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND OTHER NOTABLES INVITED TO FIRST CEREMONIAL MEETING. JCIA WILL THEN DIVIDE INTO SUB-GROUPS FOR WORKING SESSIONS.

2. SOUKA SAID HE WILL PROPOSE FOLLOWING ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR JCIA SESSIONS:

- A. REACTIVATION OF ICC.
- B. REVIEW OF PAST AND FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS TO FACILITATE LPF INFLUX.
- C. STEPS TOWARD NEUTRALIZATION OF VIENTIANE, SUCH AS CREATION OF JOINT POLICE PATROLS, EQUALIZATION OF FORCES, ETC.
- D. FORMATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT.

3. SOUKAN FORSEES TWO MAJOR PROBLEMS AHEAD. ONE IS EXPENSE OF FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT FOR JOINT POLICE FORCE, PROTECTIVE MILITARY BATTALIONS AND OTHER NEW BODIES WHICH WILL BE CREATED BY JCIA IN NEXT TWO MONTHS. RLG CANNOT POSSIBLE COVER THESE COSTS ALONE.

4. SECOND PROBLEM IS THAT OF COMMAND AND CONTROL OF SECURITY FORCES. INTERIOR MINISTER PHENG PHONGSAVAN INSISTS THAT RLG CONTINGENT ON JOINT POLICE FORCE REMAIN UNDER CONTROL OF HIS MINISTRY, AND NOT BE SUBORDINATED TO SOUKAN AS CHAIRMAN OF RLG DELEGATION TO JCIA. SIMILARLY, RLG DEFENSE MINISTRY INSISTS THE PROTECTIVE MILITARY BATTALION REMAIN IN RLGAF CHAIN OF COMMAND. BUT LPF CONSIDERS JCIA, JOINT POLICE FORCE AND PROTECTIVE MILITARY BATTALIONS AS "WHOLLY INDEPENDENT OF PRESENT GOVERNMENT AND SUBORDINATE DIRECTLY TO CHIEFS OF BOTH SIDES" ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 23(A) OF PROTOCOL. SOUKAN THEREFORE BELIEVES LPF MAY NOT COOPERATE UNLESS COMMAND AND CONTROL LINES RUN DIRECTLY FROM JCIA TO JOINT POLICE FORCE AND PROTECTIVE MILITARY BATTALIONS, SKIRTING INFLUENCE OF THEIR PARENT

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RLG ORGANIZATIONS.

5. SOUKAN SAID THAT VEHICLES DONATED BY USG TO JCIA THROUGH FAR WERE NOW BEING DELIVERED TO HIM. HE ADDED THAT AFTER HIS MEETING WITH SOTH THIS AFTERNOON, HE WOULD BE ABLE TO ESTIMATE AMOUNT OF ADDITIONAL MATERIAL NECESSARY FOR CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF PROTOCOL.

WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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